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# Every Thing On It



## Synopsis

A spider lives inside my head  
Who weaves a strange and wondrous web  
Of silken threads and silver strings  
To catch all sorts of flying things,  
Like crumbs of thought and bits of smiles  
And specks of dried-up tears,  
And dust of dreams that catch and cling  
For years and years and years . . .  
Have you ever read a book with everything on it? Well, here it is, an amazing collection of never-before-published poems and drawings from the creator of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *A Light in the Attic*, and *Falling Up*. You will say Hi-ho for the toilet troll, get tongue-tied with *Stick-a-Tongue-Out-Sid*, play a highly unusual horn, and experience the joys of growing down. What's that? You have a case of the Lovetobutcants? Impossible! Just come on in and let the magic of Shel Silverstein bend your brain and open your heart. Supports the Common Core State Standards

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (226 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

I hope everyone has read Shel Silversteins intriguing and heartwarming poetry before, such as "Where the Sidewalk Ends". If perchance you haven't done so- run, don't walk, and get a copy now! You have a real treat in store for you. Here is yet another collection, recently unearthed after the authors untimely end in 1999. Where his family is finding these, I'll never know, but I hope they never run out. We have well over 100 new poems and illustrations, all done in that wonderful and inimitable style we have all come to know and love. "Although I cannot see your face / As you flip these poems awhile, / Somewhere from some far-off place / I hear you laughing--and I smile." I hope

he does.

"Every Thing On It," published eleven years after Shel Silverstein's death, arrived yesterday. Homework was instantly abandoned. The Girl Who Hates To Read simply had to dive into this collection of 139 poems. This speaks volumes. Shel Silverstein's books are said to be for children 9 to 12. Nonsense. We started reading him when The Girl Who Hates To Read was six, and now we have the full collection. Only Roald Dahl comes close --- and he's a distant second. What is Silverstein's appeal? Simple: He's not full of the pap that used to pass for children's books. Starting way back in the '60s --- when "Ozzie and Harriet" values were finally starting to wither and die everywhere but in kids' books --- he talked to kids with respect. He thought they were smart. And creative. And they needed to be encouraged, not sedated. Here's Silverstein's message in 34 words: "Listen to the mustn'ts, child. Listen to the don'ts. Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts. Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me... Anything can happen, child. Anything can be." In "Every Thing On It," he goes much further. There are poems about garlic breath and hats and why you start work in a candy store without getting sick if you insist on sampling the merchandise, but he also dealt with death. Wow, death! Once said to be an idea terrifying to kids. Here addressed directly. No wonder kids love him.

\*\*\*\*\*"When Shel Silverstein wrote the poem "Years From Now," he seemed to know that one day he'd be gone but that his playful words and images would still be making children happy." --NPR Staff  
Generations of Americans have grown up with the poems of Shel Silverstein, a poet and illustrator, playwright, performer, and popular songwriter. Shel has inspired children to dream and venture to imagine beyond human reach, with the help of beautiful poetry and memorable characters. Shel Silverstein, was first and foremost a gifted illustrator and an imaginative cartoonist for his poetry collections: *A Light in the Attic*, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, and *Falling Up*. Although I was not introduced to his early works as a kid, his impressive bare art was mesmerizing before I ever knew his name. Have you ever read a book with everything on it? Silverstein has confessed, "I never planned to write or draw for kids," at the time his popular books were translated into 20 languages, and have sold over 20 million copies! I thought the least is to leave everything in hand (on it) to meditate at the memory of his art and humility. This is a great occasion to review this fine collection of his pen, published twelve years after Shel has departed us in 1999. One hundred and thirty first timer poems and drawings created by the impressive artist and selected by his entourage. I love his rare imaginative funny poetry: "I asked for a hot dog, with everything on it, And

that was my big mistake, 'Cause it came with a parrot, A bee and a bonnet, A wristwatch, a wrench, and a rake. . . . . That's the last time I ask, For a hot dog with everything." S.S.

I was fully grown when I discovered Shel Silverstein. My oldest daughter brought home *Where the Sidewalk Ends* from her school library. I don't think she opened the book, but I did, and I've been a huge fan since. My youngest daughter is also a fan. When she was about 9 she made a point of memorizing several of her favorite Silverstein poems. It is this ability to reach some children that makes Shel Silverstein such a unique artist. His passing was a true loss for the country as a whole, but for children specifically. I've purchased and read *Every Thing On It* and will be sharing this volume with my granddaughter when she visits. I may even read a poem or two to my now fully grown daughters. So what if nobody came? I have all the ice cream and tea, And I'll laugh with myself, And I'll dance with myself, And I'll sing "Happy birthday to me!" Of course, when you read Silverstein's poems you experience the same lyrical wordplay that he is famous for. These fresh poems continue his legacy of talking to children with respect and at the same time honoring their wonder at the world around them. I highly recommend *Every Thing On It* to children (of all ages) everywhere. Peace to all.

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